

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01593 151420Z

53

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 FEAE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-05 IO-04 L-01

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 SCI-02 SS-15 SP-02

DRC-01 /059 W

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R 151320Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, MA

SUBJECT: MALAGASY GOVT CHARGES AGAINST OIL MARKETING COMPANIES

REF: TANANARIVE 1554

1. JULIAN DASHIELL, AMERICAN MANAGER OF CALTEX IN MADAGASCAR, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR OCT 11 TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR LOW-KEY REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO MALAGASY MINISTER ECONOMY AND FINANCE ABOUT MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS ON CALTEX AND ESSO MANAGERS AND ENORMOUS FINE LEVIED ON CALTEX (REFTEL).

2. DASHIELL REPORTED THAT AFTER CAREFUL STUDY OF APPLICABLE MALAGASY LAWS, CALTEX IS NO LONGER PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE EVEN "TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS" OF MALAGASY REGULATIONS ON REPATRIATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. COMPANY NOW SATISFIED THAT PRIOR TO DECREE ISSUED JUNE 1974, MALAGASY LAW SET NO PRECISE TIME LIMIT ON REPATRIATION.

3. DASHIELL ALSO REPORTED THAT SINCE EARLIER CONVERSATIONS, GOMR HAS BLOCKED OR FROZEN RECENT CALTEX REMITTANCE OF \$1 MILLION FOR EXPORTED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, PRESUMABLY TO ENSURE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PAY FINE IF GOMR DETERMINES

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PAGE 02 TANANA 01593 151420Z

COMPANY VIOLATED MALAGASY FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS

WHEN CURRENT INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED. EFFECT OF FREEZING
CALTEX'S \$1 MILLION HAS BEEN TO LEAVE FIRM WITH INSUFFICIENT
FUNDS IN LOCAL BANK TO PAY LETTER OF CREDIT FOR IMPORTED
PETROLEUM. ACCORDINGLY CALTEX MADAGASCAR HAS BEEN UNABLE
TO REMIT PAYMENT TO PARENT FIRM FOR LATEST SHIPMENT OF
IMPORTED CRUDE OIL RECENTLY ARRIVED IN MADAGASCAR.
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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